



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 10, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

Maryland Woman Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison For Fatal Stabbing of Woman in Parking Lot - Defendant Ambushed Unarmed Victim in August 2010 Attack -

WASHINGTON – Ramona Gray, 31, was sentenced today to a prison term of 25 years for second degree murder while armed in the fatal stabbing in August 2010 of a woman in a Southeast Washington parking lot, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Gray, of District Heights, Md., pled guilty in January 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She was sentenced today by the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher. Upon completion of her prison term, Gray will be placed on five years of supervised release.

According to the government's factual proffer, on Tuesday, August 31, 2010, at approximately 5:25 p.m., Gray stabbed Shemese Grant, 31, of Washington, D.C., repeatedly with a knife in a parking lot in the 1700 block of Good Hope Road SE. The victim was pronounced dead within an hour. The autopsy revealed a total of 18 multiple sharp force injuries: eight stab wounds to the neck and torso, and ten incised wounds to the head, torso, and extremities.

The government's evidence showed that Gray attacked and stabbed Ms. Grant to death because she was upset that Ms. Grant was with a man with whom Gray once shared a romantic relationship. The killing came barely a year after Gray was placed on probation for an earlier crime -- also involving a jealous impulse and Gray's past relationship with the same man.

In the earlier case, Gray pled guilty to arson for setting fire in October 2007 to the home of a family member of the same former lover. Ms. Grant was not involved in that case. That fire made several families homeless and caused extensive damage. Gray was sentenced to a term of 18 months. The prison time was suspended and Gray was placed on 18 months of probation.

According to a factual proffer submitted at the time of the guilty plea, Gray had remained in contact with the former lover in the years after the fire. The trouble last August 31 began after Gray's phone was accidentally connected to her former lover's cellular telephone. Gray

overheard a conversation he was having with Ms. Grant while they were riding together in a rental car. Over the phone, Gray confronted her former lover, and the call ended.

After this conversation, throughout the day, Gray called her former lover's cellular telephone and sent him phone text messages. Later in the day, she armed herself with a long knife and rode around in a car to find Ms. Grant. Not long before the fatal attack, Gray pulled into the parking lot of a convenience store in the 1700 block of Good Hope Road SE. There, she saw a car that she recognized as belonging to Ms. Grant. Gray then entered the convenience store and stood near the entrance, peering outward into the parking lot.

From inside the store, Gray saw the rental car pull up in the parking lot. Ms. Grant got out of the car, and when she turned her back to the store, Gray ran outside. She stabbed Ms. Grant repeatedly and then she fled the scene.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of Metropolitan Police Department Violent Crime Branch Detectives Dwayne Corbett, Wayne Marable, and Darin March and Forensic Science Division Technician John Holder. He also commended the work of Paralegal Marian Russell, Victim Witness Specialist Marcey Rinker, and Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Gripkey, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

11-231

###